



SOL & NAVDANYA

Rural women are champions of seed and biodiversity conservation

Project start: 2011, Award year: 2017

SOL and Navdanya transformed the resilience capacity of 69 villages in Northern India by valuing women's knowledge on biodiversity conservation and their role as seed bank keepers. 1,457 farmers (80% women) enhanced their skills via field trainings, improving soil fertility and moisture (organic matter raised by 25%) as well as food processing. 274 women seed keepers have strengthened the food sovereignty of thousands of farmers and the diversity of cultivated crops. Self-help groups share techniques, improve income-generating activities and set up a fair trade sales network. Navdanya's advocacy directly influenced the decision of Uttarakhand's State to become 100% organic.



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"Understanding gender interactions in the communities has been crucial for our success. We need a systemic approach in all actions we undertake."

Neha Raj Singh

UNIQUE VALUE

What's special about this project

- ▶ This programme is a model of community owned, gender-transformative and ecosystem-based climate action. It relies on a strong North-South CSO cooperation with a broad range of capacity building activities empowering women, men and children, and enhancing their resilience.
- ▶ Through regular visits by local authorities to Navdanya's biodiversity conservation farm, the project has directly influenced State policy on agriculture. This has led to a positive change in gender roles and norms among communities.



AWARD IMPACTS

- ▶ The International recognition has shed a new light on the trustful cooperation of SOL and Navdanya and gave a broader aura to their collective action. It has brought new financial partnerships, reinforcing the multiplying effect among local communities and the holistic approach (sustainable water management, nutrition, solidarity support).

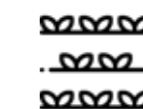
TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES



1,457 farmers trained in agro-ecology (80% ♀), improving food security for 55,000 inhabitants in 69 villages



38 self-help groups, with 606 women sharing knowledge and access to market via collective actions



17 community seed banks conserving 30 climate-resilient seed varieties



Outreach to 8,381 children including 4,434 girls on agroecology and climate resilience



274 women seed keepers become community leaders. Some have been elected in villages councils

